Construction of Rail line Beyond Kumarghat

2089. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that most of the construction work of the rail line on a 20 kms stretch on Kumarghat-Agartala sector, beyond Kumarghat upto Manu, is nearing completion;

(b) whether sufficient funds have been allocated so that the work is not delayed;

(c) whether Government propose to fix a dealing for commissioning of this part of the line, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) The earthwork and bridges on Kumarghat-Manu section on Kumarghat-Agartala project is in progress and expected to be completed during 2002-03.

(b) The funds have been allocated as per availability of resources.

(c) No dead line for commissioning of this part of line has yet been fixed.

(d) Does not arise.

Progress of Railtel Project

2090. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress made so far about Railways Rail Tel Project for a 62,000 km. trade network, to bring low connectivity to PCs in all corners of India, has been miserably below expectations;

(b) whether the Rail Tel Corporation of India Limited, launched in 2000, has been without a head and the only permanent Rail Tel Official at a senior level is the Company Secretary, aided by Directors (Finance and Projects) who are just OSDs; and

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on the project, the targets fixed for the project for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 and the percentage achievement thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) RailTel was formed in September' 2000 and Railways' right of way (ROW) is in the process of being leased on a long-term annual lease basis. The optical fibre cable assets on about 7,000 Route kilometer are also in the process of getting transferred to the RailTel's equity. As per the Cabinet decision, the induction of Joint Venture partner(s) in the RailTel is in progress. RailTel has already initiated steps to roll out the network so as to connect major cities.

(b) No, Sir. RailTel Corporation of India Limited is headed by Managing Director. Besides, Director (Project) and Director (Finance) posts are being operated. Senior Railway officers have been nominated to look after the work of Managing Director, Director (Project) and Director (Finance).

(c) Rs. 15 crores as seed Capital has been transferred by Railways to RailTel Corporation of India Limited (Rail Tel), so far. Besides, RailTel Corporation of India Limited has secured loans for rolling out the OFC network Railway Budget for 2000-2001 had anticipated Rs. 500 crores from Right of Way which did not materialise. The Railway Budget for 2001-2002 has projected Rs. 700 crore from Right of Way which is also not likely to materialise due to value of Right of Way coming down and Railways' plan to lease the Right of Way on long term annual lease basis.

Doubling of Ramanagaram-Mysore Rail Line

2091. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Railways to approve the doubling of Ramanagaram-Mysore rail line;

(b) what is the estimated cost of the work;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has offered to share 50% of the cost; and

(d) is so, the action, if any, taken to take up the above work?